

**CLASSIS GEORGETOWN VISION TEAM**  
**Minutes of November 9, 2017, 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM**

*Transforming Lives and Communities*

**Georgetown CRC, 6475 ~ 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Hudsonville, MI 49426**

**11-1:** In light of the celebration of Thanksgiving this month, Mark Bennink challenged us with the questions: How has God blessed you? What is a blessed person? We realize we are blessed with family, friends and the family of God and also that our answers to these questions change as life situations change. Mark read the Beatitude of Jesus and had us think about who Jesus considers to be a blessed person. Mark opened with prayer.

**11-2:** Vision Team (VT):

Roll Call, PRESENT:

**MEMBERS:** Rev. Mark Bennink, Rev. Dave Jolman, Rev. Marc Nelesen, Rev. Josh VanDrunen

**STAFF:** Mr. Jim Roskam (Classis Coordinator), Ms. Glenda Tebben (Stated Clerk),  
Mr. Mel Vander Bie (Treasurer)

**ABW:** Ms. Kathy Jelsema, Rev. Gerry Koning

**11-3: VT and Classis Meeting Minutes**

A. MSC to accept, as written, the Vision Team minutes of October 12, 2017

B. Review of Classis minutes:

- Jim will follow-up with EverGreen Ministries; re: classis meetings on Thursday evenings
- In future meetings we will have packets containing all meeting handouts available for delegates.
- Considering the table discussion at the Classis meeting we will continue to encourage collaboration between churches and find threads to connect one meeting to the next.
- Classis minutes of October 26, 2017, were received for information

**11-4: Financial Report from Mel:**

A. Mel offered a brief financial report stating that finances are moving along nicely for the remainder of the 2017 fiscal year.

B. Mel received a check and a thank-you letter from Friendship Chapel. The letter encouraged us the financial gift to carry out the mission of Classis Georgetown.

- Mel, Jim and Kathy will meet and come up with suggestions as to how best to split up the funds received from Friendship Chapel. Suggestions will be brought to our next meeting.

**11-5: Stated Clerk's Report:**

A. Action Items:

- Credentials received from Rev. Richard Verkaik. He is retired, and credentials are now at EverGreen Ministries.
- Rev. Dan Gritter is retiring in April. This will be on the agenda for our February Classis Meeting.
- Faith Formation Ministries will be hosting a retreat in Ontario in January. They would like to have Fig VanderMolen attend as our Classis advocate and have asked us to cover half the cost. Glenda will follow-up with FFM, asking for more clarification on the retreat and the role of the advocate.

B. The Stated Clerk's report is received as written.

**11-6: Classis Chairperson**

We give thanks that Joshua VanDrunen has agreed to service as chair at future meetings. Gerry Koning will continue to serve as vice-chair.

**11-7: Regional Pastor – letter to churches**

Marc Nelesen referenced the letter at the classis meeting. There was positive response to it at the farewell lunch for Bob Huisman. Regional Pastors will stay on task and keep repeating the offer of counseling at Pine Rest and counseling with regional pastors.

**11-8: Jim’s report; re: discussion with Len Kuyvenhoven**

Jim met with Len following Len’s decision to no longer serve as chair at Classis meetings. Len was positive about being chair and about the collegiality among delegates at the meetings. For personal and familial reasons he felt it was time to step down as chairperson.

**11-9: Jim’s report on Alive Ministries; visit with Terry Scholten**

Jim met with Terry and reports that Alive has a plant team in place for planting a new church. They do not yet have a spot in mind but will come with a proposal to the Vision Team when plans are firm.

**11-10 Ongoing Discussion Items:**

- A. Counselor for Immanuel CRC: Marc Nelesen has agreed and this is pending per Immanuel’s council approval.
- B. Candidacy/student fund group: no report
- C. Classis as a classroom: Marc N. continues to work on this
- D. Clergy Mental Health: We continue our partnership with Pine Rest.

**11-11: Habitat for Humanity**

- A. Jim fears that perhaps we’re running out of steam. People are ready to work on the project, but finding land remains an issue.
- B. After the holidays, Jim will give the project a push and hopefully we will break ground in February.

**11-12: Future Classis Meetings:**

- A. May meeting will focus the value of Empowering Worship
  - Joyce Borger has agreed to speak about community friendly worship. Mark B. will invite Joyce to our next lunch meeting to share her thoughts on what she will say.
  - The meeting will be held on May 17. We hope to begin earlier in the evening to allow for an earlier dismissal time.
- B. February meeting will focus on the value of Healthy Leaders
  - Marc N. is working on how to address this.

**11-13: News on classis churches and other classis information**

- A. Thank you notes (via email and USPS) have been received from grant recipients.
- B. We are happy to receive news that Pastor Dave Jolman has accepted the position of Regional Pastor (following Bob Huisman’s move). Dave will begin on January 1.
- C. Positive comments made about Reformation Day Service held at Unity Christian High School.

**11-14: Jim Roskam closed our meeting with prayer.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Glenda Tebben*

Stated Clerk, Classis Georgetown

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING MEETING DATES**

- **Thursday, December 14, 12:30 PM, Georgetown CRC, Gerry, opening; Josh, closing**
- **Looking ahead, the clerk proposes these dates for VT meetings in early 2018:  
January 11, February 8, March 8**
- **Classis meets on Thursday, February 15, 2018**